

§ 13.58

38 CFR Ch. I (7–1–08 Edition)

§ 13.58 Legal custodian.

(a) *Authority.* The Veterans Service Center Manager is authorized to make determinations as to the person or legal entity to be appointed legal custodian to receive Department of Veterans Affairs payments on behalf of a beneficiary who is incompetent or under legal disability by reason of minority or court action. In the absence of special circumstances, the person or legal entity to be appointed legal custodian will be the person or legal entity caring for and/or having custody of the beneficiary or the beneficiary's estate.

(b) *Payment to.* Department of Veterans Affairs benefits may be paid to a legal custodian subject to the following conditions:

(1) The Veterans Service Center Manager has determined that it would be in the best interests of the beneficiary to appoint a legal custodian.

(2) The proposed legal custodian is qualified to administer the benefits payable and will agree to:

(i) Apply the benefits paid for the best interests of the beneficiary,

(ii) Invest surplus funds as provided by Department of Veterans Affairs regulations,

(iii) Furnish, upon request, evidence of compliance with agreement as to usage and investment of Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, and

(iv) Inform the Veterans Service Center Manager of any change in the beneficiary's estate or any other circumstances that might affect entitlement or the manner in which payments are to be made.

[40 FR 54247, Nov. 21, 1975]

§ 13.59 Court-appointed fiduciary.

(a) *Payment to.* Any Department of Veterans Affairs benefit may be paid to the fiduciary appointed by a State court for a beneficiary who is a minor, or incompetent or under other legal disability adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction. Formal or informal accountings may be required from such fiduciaries, with or without judicial proceedings.

(b) *Veterans Service Center Manager's responsibility.* The Veterans Service Center Manager shall: (1) Determine

and recommend to the Regional Counsel the person or legal entity best fitted for appointment as State court fiduciary for the particular beneficiary. Necessary legal action will be taken by the Regional Counsel.

(2) Upon advice from the Regional Counsel that the fiduciary has been appointed, issue appropriate certification thereof so that payment of benefits can be made to such fiduciary.

[40 FR 54247, Nov. 21, 1975]

§ 13.61 Payment to the chief officer of institution.

The Veterans Service Center Manager may authorize the payment of all or part of the pension, compensation or emergency officers' retirement pay payable in behalf of a veteran rated incompetent by the Department of Veterans Affairs to the chief officer of the institution wherein the veteran is being furnished hospital treatment or institutional, nursing or domiciliary care, for the veteran's use and benefit, when the Veterans Service Center Manager has determined such payment (called an institutional award) will adequately provide for the needs of the veteran and obviate need for appointment of another type of fiduciary.

[40 FR 54248, Nov. 21, 1975]

§ 13.62 Payment to bonded officer of Indian reservation.

Any benefits due an incompetent adult or minor Indian, who is a recognized ward of the Government, may be awarded to the superintendent or other bonded officer designated by the Secretary of the Interior to receive funds under 25 U.S.C. 14.

[40 FR 54248, Nov. 21, 1975]

§ 13.63 Payment to custodian-in-fact.

All or any part of a benefit due a minor or incompetent adult, payment of which is suspended or withheld because payment may not be properly made to an existing fiduciary, may be paid temporarily to the person having custody and control of the beneficiary.

[36 FR 19023, Sept. 25, 1971]